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REPORT

SUBJECT Underground Bunkers in Bratislava

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report on underground bunkers completed 25X1 between 1953 and 1955 in Bratislava. Descriptions are given of bunkers under Bratislava Castle and the Commissariat of Building. The report also describes the selection of personnel for communications service in case of war.

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The building of them is camouflaged as construction of deepfreezers, various storages, and similar. Out of the many bunkers the following were completed in 1954/55:

25X1

- a) under the Bratislava Castle,
- b) under the Poverenictvo Stavebnictva (Building Commissariat),
- c) Under Zahradnicka street,
- d) in Petralka.

The construction is being done under the supervision of the Military Administration - Technical Section, which is situated at the former Bratislava Bank on Roosevelt street ? square.

In 1955, the bunkers were equipped with telecommunication apparatus.

## 2. Description of the bunker under the Bratislava Castle:

- (a) The entry to the bunker is at the point of Vydricka and Slovanska cesta (way), in the direction to the Castle, from the south side of the Castle of the Danube river.

The bunker is L-shaped; the shorter wing is approximately 25 m long, points from west to east and has two tunnel openings.

The longer wing leads in the direction toward the Castle and is approximately 60-80 meters long.

It is a concrete construction, arched, at the base approx. 6-7 m wide and 3 meters high at the highest point in the middle.

It is divided into 15-20 rooms by brick walls, but in spring 1955 the rooms were still without doors.

The two main gates are of heavy metal. (On the Danube river side.)

The emergency exit leads through a tunnel to the open onto a fenced in building site.

- (b) The bunker was equipped in 1955 with two telephone exchanges: a semi-automatic, UB type (Ustredni baterie = Central baterii) for 100 lines for local purposes; the 2nd exchange is the MB type (Mistni baterie = Local baterii) - long distance, fed by induction. (By turning a handle for main exchange.)

The two exchanges are placed in the larger room nearest to the entrance. In the next room is the "operational hall" where six telephones and six individual booths are installed.

In the rest of the rooms are two telephones in each room.

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The ventilation is installed partly through the Castle, (the Castle is being renovated) and in addition the bunker was supposed to be equipped with a device similar to one used in the submarines. The metal gates are protected for tightness by rubber lining. A teleprinter was to be installed in 1955, as well as a dispatcher's switchboard and transmitters.

- (c) The bunker, according to the assemblymen, was to be a military operational shelter for the Bratislava from which, in case of war, operations military and security precautions were to be conducted. By the system UB the bunker is connected with other bunkers. The connections are, however, established via the postal cables. The cable-network is in most case leading over the main exchange in Stalinovo namesti. So far no new cables were laid, but when some of them were exchanged they were embedded into concrete blocks.

3. Description of the bunker under the Building Commissariat:

- (a) The bunker was most probably built at the same time as the building itself. It is a several stories high and located on Kycerska street #1-3. The bunker is heavily concreted and is approximately 15 x 50 meters large. A corridor leads through the shelter along which are rooms of various sizes, of brick or concrete walls.
- (b) The equipment of the bunker is about the same as the one under the Bratislava Castle. An exchange for 100 lines UB type and the other MB type for 50 lines. It has its own ventilation installation, an electric power producing equipment, teleprinter, and transmitter was supposed to be there. The bunker has two emergency exits. Is considerably smaller than the one under the Castle and its walls are angular; an approximate height is 2½ meters.

4. Selection of personnel from amongst the Post Office employees for military purposes:

The Cadre section is selecting personnel from the telecommunication and maintenance department, who, in case of war, would attend the Post Office communications, and special personnel for operating the bunker exchanges. Men eligible for military service and selected to remain at the communications have it entered in their Military Book. Also women are being selected for this service, and after a very careful screening each candidate gets 14 days special training upon which completion she gets a Military Book similar to the one carried by men. These women will be assigned to operate the bunker switchboards.

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